



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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House Overwhelmingly Passes Sensenbrenner's Bipartisan Child Safety Legislation

Bill Focuses on Sex Offenders and Others Preying Upon Children

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House today overwhelmingly passed by a 371-to-52 margin bipartisan child safety legislation introduced by House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.). H.R. 3132, the “Children’s Safety Act of 2005,” is bipartisan legislation focusing on sex offenders and others preying upon children.

Chairman Sensenbrenner stated, “This legislation is a bipartisan effort to address the growing epidemic of violence against children, and the need for greater protection from convicted sex offenders through State registration and notification programs. There are over 550,000 sex offenders in the country, and it is conservatively estimated that at least 100,000 of them are ‘lost’ in the system, meaning that non-registered sex offenders are living in our communities, and working at locations where they can – and likely will – come into contact with our children. This is simply unacceptable and the legislation specifically targets this problem to enhance the safety of America’s families and communities.”

The House adopted an amendment offered by Chairman Sensenbrenner to protect children affected by Hurricane Katrina. This amendment directs the Justice Department to provide technical assistance to help law enforcement with locating and monitoring the thousands of sex offenders that have been relocated from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama as part of the disaster relief efforts.

Commented Chairman Sensenbrenner, “It is critical that we protect our children while disaster relief is being provided. Criminal records and sex offender information are in

many cases not available to law enforcement or the community to track these offenders as they move to new areas.”

Some Highlights of the Children’s Safety Act

- Improves Sex Offender Registration and Notification Program to ensure that sex offenders register, and keep current, where they reside, work and attend school (H.R. 2423 – Rep. Foley)
- Improves verification systems for sex offender information by requiring monthly verification, sex offender in-person verification every six months, and regular notarized verification mailings (H.R.1505 – Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite)
- Requires States to have a uniform, public access sex offender registration website (H.R. 2423 – Rep. Foley)
- Creates Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website to search for sex offender information in each community (H.R. 95 – Reps. Gillmor and Pomeroy)
- Expands sex offenders to include juvenile sex offenders (H.R. 2797 - Rep. Green)
- Requires States to notify each other when sex offender moves from one State to another (H.R. 2423 – Rep. Foley)
- Expands sex offenses covered by registration and notification requirements to include military, tribal, foreign, sex crimes, and increases duration of registration requirements to protect the public (H.R. 1355 – Rep. Poe)
- Expands community notification requirements to include active efforts to inform law enforcement agencies, schools, public housing, social service agencies and volunteer organizations in area where sex offender resides, works or attends school (H.R. 2423-Rep. Foley, and H.R. 1355 – Rep. Poe)
- Creates new criminal penalty of mandatory minimum of 5 years to maximum of 20 years for sex offender who fails to comply with registration requirements
- Expands law enforcement use of DNA to solve sex crimes (H.R. 2796 –Rep. Green)
- Prevents and deters violent crimes against children and sexual exploitation of children (H.R. 2318 and H.R. 2388 – Rep. Green)
- Protects foster children from sexual abuse and exploitation (H.R. 3129 – DeLay)
- Increases criminal penalties against child sexual predators

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